



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, April 25, 2008

STATE HELPS PIMA COUNTY WITH MEASLES OUTBREAK
Governor allocates \$50,000 to bolster public health interventions

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today issued an executive order allocating \$50,000 from the state Health Crisis Fund to combat an outbreak of measles in Pima County.

The executive order calls for “aggressive and timely outbreak control measures” to stop the spread of the highly contagious disease. The funds will bolster public health interventions in Pima County and speed laboratory testing critical to interrupting the spread of measles.

“I am committed to ensuring Pima County has all the tools necessary to fight the spread of this preventable disease,” Governor Napolitano said. “This is a reminder that vaccinations are the safest and most effective way to protect yourself and your loved ones.”

There are 14 confirmed cases of measles in Pima County, and new suspected cases are being identified daily. While the outbreak has been centered in Tucson, health officials stress that aggressive interventions are necessary to prevent the outbreak from becoming statewide.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is working with Pima County, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and health care facilities to control the outbreak.

The Governor’s executive order funds temporary deployment of ADHS epidemiologists to Pima County to assist with investigations and public health interventions, and lab supplies that will significantly reduce the State Health Laboratory’s turnaround time for measles sample testing from two days to a few hours. Some funds also will pay overtime for Lab employees to conduct testing during evenings and weekends.

Last week, Governor Napolitano cited the measles outbreak in encouraging childhood vaccinations and declaring April 19-26 as Infant Immunization Awareness Week.

“Measles has not been eradicated,” Napolitano said. “This outbreak shows it can still be a very real health threat, and parents need to protect their children by making sure they have all their shots.”

Measles is transmitted through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes nearby. Typically, symptoms begin about 10-14 days after exposure to an infected person. The first

symptoms are usually a cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, and fever. Typically, the next symptom is a red, blotchy rash that begins on the face and spreads to the rest of the body.

Anyone who suspects measles in a patient should report the suspected case to the patient's local health department immediately. For more information, go to www.azdhs.gov or call the state's public health hotline at 1-800-314-9243.

A copy of the Governor's executive order is attached.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.

Executive Order 2008-20
To Spend Money from the Health Crisis Fund on Measles Outbreak Control

WHEREAS, measles is one of the most contagious diseases with the potential for explosive spread; and

WHEREAS, measles is potentially lethal and can cause pneumonia, seizures and permanent brain damage; and

WHEREAS, several measles cases have been identified in Pima County; and

WHEREAS aggressive and timely outbreak control measures, such as isolation, quarantine, post exposure vaccination or immune globulin, contact tracing, suspect case follow-up, and special vaccination clinics, are expensive and resource intensive; and

WHEREAS, these aggressive public health measures require timely laboratory testing of measles specimens by the Arizona State Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, more than 2,000 potentially exposed individuals have required monitoring; and

WHEREAS, these circumstances are neither a contingency nor an emergency pursuant to A.R.S. § 35-192 because they require neither state-municipal resource coordination nor Department of Emergency and Military Affairs assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of the State, declare a significant potential for a health crisis in the State, and hereby order as follows:

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-797, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) shall be transferred from the Health Crisis Fund to the Department of Health Services to provide resources to control the measles outbreak.
2. The Department of Health Services shall expend all moneys transferred pursuant to this Order on measures to control the measles outbreak in Arizona and shall report to the Legislature and the Governor by June 30, 2009 on the expenditure of all sums so transferred.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 26 day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer
SECRETARY OF STATE